

Asheville Buncombe Homeless Coalition
Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2009

Welcome and Introductions: Everyone around the table introduced themselves.

Review and approval of Minutes: A copy of the minutes was sent out through email to the participants. Minutes were passed with changes as noted.

Agency Updates and New Business:

1. Gordon Smith identified web site www.bluenc.com to locate information about proposed mental health funding cuts.
2. Anthony Goodson indicated that the Housing Authority has funding available to assist individuals with security deposit.
3. Amy Sawyer provided participants with homeless initiative information. The website is www.ashevillenc.gov/economicrecovery. There will be a HMIS training offered July 14@9:00am. Contact Amy if interested in attending.
4. Brian Alexander asked those that attended the HUD training last week for input. He indicated that there are a lot of changes coming on the definition of homeless. Members were encouraged to contact him or Amy Sawyer for questions about these changes or comments. Meredith Hammond identified the benefits of using the HMIS system for data tracking and the importance of reflecting the correct number of beds being utilized.
5. Mae Creadick of Pisgah Legal Services host agency of meeting gave overview of her agency. She is one of sixteen attorneys. Mae practices housing law. Some of the services Pisgah offers are as follows:
 - Advocacy for tenants being evicted
 - Homeless prevention through foreclosure representation
 - Helping people obtain subsidized housing when denied by HUD
 - Substandard housing law enforcement
 - SOAR services to expedite SSD claim decisions having positive outcomes
 - Domestic violence services
 - Advocacy to pass housing codes
6. Aaron Henderlight of Buncombe county DSS presented on Safety Net Medicaider. This is a software program that health care community providers are beginning to use to input and track users of their services. This web based application screens users for service eligibility for health care program and food stamps. Hand outs were provided to the groups.
7. Focus Groups will resume held next meeting.

8. The members liked meeting at Pisgah and indicated interest in continuing to have future meetings at other member agency sites. Brian asked to be emailed if interested in hosting a meeting. The following sites are scheduled for up coming meetings:

- Steadfast House 141 Hill Side Road. July 7@12:30.
- Housing Authority 165 South French Broad. August 4@12:30.
- OnTrack 50 South French Broad. September 1@12:30.